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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Caspian Sea)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Soviet Naval Bases in the Caspian Sea	DATE DISTR.	26 January 1955
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. With the exception of Lenkoran (N 38-45, E 48-50), which is the headquarters of the Soviet fleet in the Caspian Sea, the Soviets do not have any important naval bases or ports between Astara (N 38-28, E 48-52) and Malakan (sic).<sup>1</sup> It has been reported, however, that the Soviets are planning to build a naval base at Bolghar-Kandi (sic), which is approximately 180 kilometers north of Lenkoran.<sup>2</sup>
2. There are two Soviet naval bases between Astara and Baku (N 40-25, E 49-50), which are used as shelters by Soviet ships during stormy weather. One of these small bases is called Portpica-Sari (sic), a small town of 2,000 inhabitants near Salyany (N 39-35, E 48-59). Frequently Soviet barges remain at this base for several days and then sail in the direction of Baku. The other naval base is on the island of Nargin (N 40-18, E 49-54), located about 70 kilometers from Baku. This island is used as a shelter by Soviet vessels when they encounter stormy weather.
3. The Soviets use the naval base at Lenkoran for patrolling operations in the coastal area. This base is not equipped with a large number of vessels or modern equipment. The naval force stationed at Lenkoran is composed of four old naval vessels, two of which are always kept on patrolling duty.
4. On 19 June 1954, two Soviet armed ships lowered anchor in Soviet Astara waters.

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5. Since the coastal waters of Astara and Lenkoran are shallow, Soviet heavy naval units never approach the coast. They anchor usually within a distance of six kilometers from the coast. Only small units with a capacity of several tons can approach the ports for loading, unloading, and other operations.

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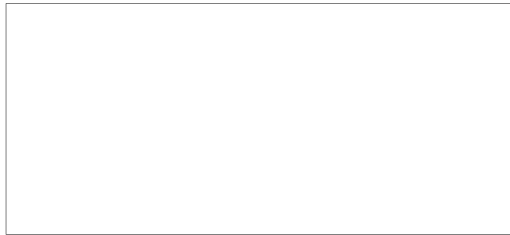
Comments

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1. Baku is the headquarters of the Soviet fleet in the Caspian Sea.
2.  the same source reported the existence of a naval base at Bulgar-Kandi (sic).  However, different informants may have contributed the present and the past reports.

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